

signed from time to time. The latest Trade Protocol under this Agreement was signed for a period of one year from 8th February, 1991. Certain proposals for resumption of Border Trade with China are also under consideration.

Foreign Investment

294. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD

SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign investment proposals cleared by the Reserve Bank of India during 1991, till date;

(b) the amount of foreign investment involved therein;

(c) whether the new Industrial Policy has received encouraging response from US, Germany, France, Japan and UK; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESH-WAR THAKUR): (a) The number of foreign collaboration proposals cleared by RBI during the year 1991 till date are 94.

(b) The amount of investment involved is US \$ 34,407,000.

(c) and (d). The policy has received good response from USA, Germany, Japan and UK. The details of investment proposals from these countries approved by RBI are as under:

Country	No. of Proposals	Amount in US \$
i) U.S.A	3	17,381,000
ii) Germany	3	472,000
iii) France	-	
iv) Japan	1	12,750,000
v) U.K.	5	2,880,000

Declaration of Foreign Currency by Tourists

295. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD

SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to obtain declaration of foreign currency in possession of tourists coming to India;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) other steps proposed to be taken to curb economic crimes relating to foreign currency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESH-WAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In accordance with the existing exchange regulations, all tourists coming to India from abroad are required to declare the foreign exchange brought by them in the form of currency, bank notes and travellers cheques

in the Currency Declaration Form, in case the aggregate value of these exceeds US \$ 10,000/- or its equivalent w.e.f. 6.11.91 as against the earlier ceiling of \$ 1,000/-.

(c) Adequate powers already exist with the Government to curb economic crimes relating to foreign currency under the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act, 1973.

Amendment of Patents Act, 1970

296. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend patent of life forms by amending the Patents Act, 1970; and

(b) if so, the Government's stand in regard to joining the 'Plant Breeders Right'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Government has not taken any decision on patenting of life forms by amending the Indian Patents Act. However, the Department of Biotechnology has constituted a Committee which is currently examining issues related to the scope of patentability of biotechnological inventions. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is separately examining the issue of Plant Breeders' Rights and the question of Government's stand thereon.

Bench of Bombay High Court at Kolhapur

297. SHRI UDAYISINGRAO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a persistent demand from the public belonging to six western districts of Maharashtra for the establishment of a Bench of the Bombay High Court at Kolhapur; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from time to time for establishing Benches of Bombay High Court at Amravati, Pune, Kolhapur and Sholapur in addition to the principal seat of the High Court at Bombay and its existing permanent Benches at Nagpur and Aurangabad.

(b) No decision can be taken by the Central Government unless a proposal with the recommendation of the High Court is received from the State Government in this regard. We await such proposal containing the High Court's recommendation to proceed further.

Income Tax on Interest on Bank Deposits

298. SHRI UDAYISINGRAO GAIKWAD

SHRI P.C. THOMAS

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI

SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE

SHRI SOBHNADREESWARA RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been sharp decline in the bank deposits as a result of the Government's decision to deduct tax at source on interest income from bank deposits;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the comparative figures of the bank